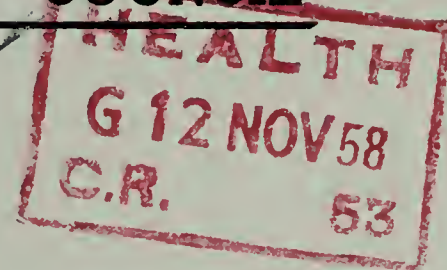


L. Henry
ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Surveyor & Chief Sanitary

Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1956

ST. NEOTS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1956

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1956.

The birth rate shows a further fall as compared with 1955 and still remains below the national average. As the total number of births involved is small this lower rate does not give rise to very great concern.

The death rate on the other hand shows a considerable decrease as compared with last year and now stands well below the figure for England and Wales as a whole.

Notifiable Infectious Disease was minimal in its prevalence during 1956 there being no outbreaks whatsoever. It is again encouraging to note that no case of either diphtheria or poliomyelitis occurred.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions registration for vaccination against poliomyelitis was opened for children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive. In May vaccination commenced for a limited number of children in certain age groups selected by the Ministry, but it was suspended during the summer months until November when it recommenced. It is anticipated that immunisation will give us a substantial measure of control over this crippling disease.

A sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for the whole of the district is now complete and is proving to be a great boon to the amenities of the town and has done away with the previous sanitary system.

The Council's Post War housing scheme at the Huntingdon Road Estate and Eynesbury, comprising 370 dwellings, is now complete. Pockets of redevelopment, however, are now taking place and 42 houses are to be constructed for the Council by a private firm on the Cambridge Road estate - which estate is to be extended to cater for a considerable number of private dwellings and light industry.

In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown me, and also to all their officers for their unfailing help and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

J. CALDWELL.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health.

J.CALDWELL, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector:

S.D.COX, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.S., A.M.I.S.E.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor:

L.J.FOSTER, M.R.S.I., A.F.S. (Resigned 31st May 1956)

J.D.MITCHELL, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H., (Commenced 1st July, 1956)

Waterworks Engineer:

W.W. MAWBY.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 1,391 acres St. Neots 996, Eynesbury 395.

ESTIMATED POPULATIONS: Mid 1955, 5,160. Mid 1956, 5,140

ST. NEOTS:

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	685
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	.	...					74

EYNESBURY:

Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	320
Shops, etc., with private houses attached	.	...					13

RATEABLE VALUE:

As at 31st December, 1956 : £65,685

Product of a Penny Rate : £ 263

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	M	F	Total		
Legitimate	.. 38	25	63	Birth-rate per 1,000 esti-	
Illegitimate	.. <u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	mated population	.. 12.8
Total	.. 39	27	66	(Ditto for England and Wales)	.. 15.7

Stillbirths

Legitimate	.. -	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live	
Illegitimate	.. <u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	and still) births	.. ---
Total	.. -	-	-	(Ditto for England and Wales)	.. 23.0

Deaths (All ages)

28	22	50	Death-rate per per 1,000 esti-	
			mated population	.. 9.7
			(Ditto for England and Wales)	.. 11.7

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	2	-	2
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	30.3
(Ditto for England and Wales) ...	...	...	23.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			31.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			-----

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

- (a) Laboratory Facilities
The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:
Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
Telephone Cambridge 55526
Public Analyst (S.Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.) Tennison Road, Cambridge. Telephone Cambridge 2097.
- (b) Ambulance facilities
(i) Ambulance administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. Telephone Huntingdon 348.
- (c) Home Nursing
During the year one of the two District Nurse/Midwives covering St.Neots resigned and at the end of the year the vacancy had not been filled.
- (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres
(i) The following Health Services provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month Every other Thursday, School Nurse only. 10 - 11.30 a.m. Every Monday 9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m.	Liberal Club St. Neots. Old Grammar School, Huntingdon
Infant Welfare	Children (0 - 5 years)	Every Wednesday & Thursday, 2-4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
Dental	Pre-School and school- children, Pre-Natal & Nursing Mothers	1st Thursday in month, 10a.m. - 12 noon 2 - 3.30 p.m.	Red Cross Room, High Street, St. Neots.

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board :

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday, 10 a.m. - 12 noon	County Hospital Huntingdon.
Venercal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3 - 7 p.m. Wednesday 4 - 6.30 p.m. Males: Mondays, 5.20 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30 p.m. Females: Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. Thursdays, 5.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Out- Patient Department Memorial Hospital, Cambridge.
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and school children	2nd and 4th Tues- days in month (Sur- geons by appoint- ment). 10 a.m. - 12 noon.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and school-children	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 2 - 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Fever - Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospital at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases - Maternity facilities were provided at Primrose Lane Hospital, Huntingdon.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	8
Diphtheria	...	...	-
Measles	...	...	2
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	-
Typhoid Fever	...	...	-
Erysipelas	...	...	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar-General's List)

<u>List No.</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	--
2.	Tuberculosis, other	--	--
3.	Syphilitic	--	--
4.	Diphtheria	--	--
5.	Whooping cough	--	--
6.	Meningococcal infections	--	--
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	--	--
8.	Measles	--	--
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	--	--
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	--	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	--
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	--	--
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	--	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	--	--
16.	Diabetes	--	--
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	6	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	--	2
20.	Other heart disease	2	1
21.	Other circulatory diseases	--	--
22.	Influenza	4	2
23.	Pneumonia	--	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	--
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	--	--
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	--	--
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	--	--
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	--	--
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	--	--
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	--	--
31.	Congenital malformations	--	--
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	--	--
34.	All other accidents	1	1
35.	Suicide	--	--
36.	Homicide and operations of war	--	--
		<hr/> 28	<hr/> 22

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1956 : 23

Pulmonary : 14 Non-Pulmonary : 9

New Cases - diagnosed

New Cases - transfers

<u>Age periods</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1956, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:-

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under							Total
Primary	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	
Immunisation	35	39	3	2	-	11	5	95
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	-	-	-	-	5	61	29	95

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the district of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31.12.56	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total Under 15.
i.e. Born in year	1956	1952-1955	1947-1951	1942-1946	
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1952 - 1956	12	225	301	197	735
B. 1951 or earlier	-	-	103	206	309

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR
1956

To the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

It is with pleasure that I submit my fourth Annual Report recording the work of your Inspectors for the year 1956.

The end of the year showed the operation of the new sewage treatment works on temporary switch gear converted to a new control panel and switchgear. The year also brought many teething troubles with the new system.

In **submitting** this report, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support, yourself and other Officers and Staff of the Urban District for their help and co-operation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

S.D.COX.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary
Inspector.

- 11 -

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR, ETC.

Visits and Inspections made 1956

Public Health Act

Houses inspected for nuisances including revisits	..	163
Vermineous premises	..	-
Infectious diseases - inquiries and disinfection	..	2
Privies, ashpits, earth closets	..	21
Drainage inspections - sewers included (old and new)	..	251
Tents, vans, sheds and moveable dwellings	..	36
Smoke abatement - observations etc	..	9
Streams and watercourses	..	4
Vacant land	..	7
Refuse tip - control and operation	..	84
Refuse collection, complaints, organisation etc	..	6
Council house maintenance - repairs, surveys etc	..	912
Byelaws - inspection of new and proposed work etc	..	270
Keeping animals	..	5
Offensive trades	..	1
Water supplies - including sampling	..	15
Public Conveniences	..	13

Housing Acts

Houses inspected - slum clearance, improvements etc	..	44
Housing applications (for Council houses)	..	11
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts - valuations etc	..	29
Improvement Grants - advice, work in progress etc	..	31

Factory Act

Factories and work places inspected	..	11
Outworkers premises visited	..	9
Fire Escape inspections - including revisits	..	3

Shops Act

Shops inspected - health and comfort etc	..	10
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Food and Drugs Act etc

Bakehouses inspected - including revisits	..	7
General food shops - including revisits	..	15
Fried Fish Shops - including revisits	..	2
Food preparing premises	..	7
Slaughterhouses (meat inspection etc)	..	582
Public houses	..	9
Markets and market stalls	..	35
Food inspection visits (other than meat inspection)	..	12
Restaurants and cafés - including sampling visits	..	19
Ice cream premises - including sampling visits	..	48
Dairies - including sampling visits	..	12
Butchers	..	18
Hotels	..	3

Miscellaneous

Rat and mice infestations (not including Rodent Operative)	..	15
Interviews generally	..	1361
Miscellaneous Visits	..	163
Visits under Petroleum Acts	..	6
New Council houses in course of erection	..	787
District and classified roads, scavenging Gulley emptying etc.	..	67

Total visits and inspections made	..	5115
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Notices Served and complied with 1956 (including verbal)

Type of Notice	Served	Complied with	End of 1955	Outstanding End of 1956
Public Health Act informal	16	12	2	6
Public Health Act formal	-	1	1	-
Housing Acts informal	3	3	-	-
Housing Acts formal	-	-	-	-
Factories Acts informal	2	2	-	-
Food and Drugs Acts informal	7	8	1	-
Milk & Dairies Regs. informal	-	-	-	-
Petroleum Acts informal	1	1	-	-
Pet Animals Act informal	-	-	-	-

LICENCES ISSUED
1956

Slaughter of Animals Acts		
Slaughtering licences	..	12
Public Health Acts		
Marine store dealers	..	3
Knackers Yards	..	1
Slaughterhouses Act 1954		
Slaughterhouses - private	..	3
Petroleum Acts		
Petroleum	..	23
Carbide of Calcuim	..	1
Cellulose	..	2
Rubber solutions	..	3
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations		
Dealers licences	..	4
Supplementary licences	..	3
Game Act 1931		
Game dealers	..	6
Food and Drugs Acts - registrations to date		
Storage and sale of ice cream	..	15
Manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream	..	-
Pressed, potted and preserved meats etc.	..	4
Pet Animals Acts 1951		
Pet animals licences	..	1

- 14 -

INFORMAL FOOD ETC SAMPLES

Cream

The following samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge

Grade 1	22 samples
Grade 2	3 samples
Grade 3	2 samples
Grade 4	No samples

The two samples falling into Grade 3 were open samples of ice-cream from a confectionery. A thorough investigation revealed dirty serving utensils and the matter was cleared up eventually with adequate sterilisation. Subsequent samples from this establishment have fallen into Grade 1 and 2, mostly the former.

A total of 26 milk samples were taken over the year as follows:-

Tuberculin tested	- 11 samples	- all satisfactory
(Pasteurised)		
Pasteurised milk	- 9 samples	- all satisfactory
Sterilised milk	- 5 samples	- all satisfactory

One tuberculin tested milk was sampled and examined for tuberculin bacilli and Brucella abortus infection but no evidence of the organisms was found

During the year a total of 14 water samples were taken as follow

From various pumps and wells	- 12 samples (3 unsatisfactory)
Town mains water	- 1 sample - satisfactory
Raw river water	- unsatisfactory

Improvement was obtained at the 3 wells and pumps where samples were unsatisfactory. Endeavours were made to encourage owners to connect to mains water with success in two instances.

The sample of raw river water was taken to reveal to the general public the unsatisfactory condition of river water for the purpose of bathing.

There is no swimming pool in the town and during the hotter months the river at certain places is used considerably.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Animals killed and inspected during 1956 at the three licensed slaughterhouses were as follows:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
1342	4	6109	11944	19399

Condemnations

Diseases other than tuberculosis

	Cattle & Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1. Whole carcasses	1	-	2	22
2. Part carcasses or organs	167	-	8	470
3. Percentage affected	12.5	-	.16	4.1

Affected with tuberculosis

1. Whole carcass	5	-	-	-
2. Part carcasses or organs	78	-	-	268
3. Percentage affected	6.1	-	-	2.3

Other Food Condemned

10 lbs. cooked gammon
 36 lbs. corned beef
 2 lbs. pork luncheon meat
 30 tins tomatoes
 10 tins baked beans
 12 tins evaporated milk
 10 tins oranges
 8 tins pineapple
 1 tin cherries
 22 tins peaches
 1 tin grapes
 1 tin prunes
 4 tins strawberries
 8 lbs. cooked shoulder
 12 lbs. jellied veal
 62 lbs. pork
 187 lbs. beef

Other Foods Condemned (Cont'd)

3 tins apricots
 1 tin pears
 1 tin steak & kidney pudding
 1 tin orange marmalade
 10 tins peas
 1 tin megg
 1 lb. loose coconut
 1 pkt. rice krispies
 1 tin salmon
 1 jar stuffed olives
 1 tin plums
 11 pkts. cheese spread

Again this year meat inspection at the main abattoir demanded more of the inspectors time. The 100% meat inspected service is still being maintained, in spite of yet another substantial increase in the total killings. As a comparison I tabulate below the annual figures since 1951 showing this years figures to be three times those in 1951.

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
6980	8542	9035	13535	17368	19399

Food Premises

General Stores	..	26
Fishmongers	..	3
Dairies	..	4
Butchers	..	11
Bakeries	..	6
Hotels	..	6
Cafes & Eating Establishments	..	6
Fish Friers	..	3
Moblie Fish Friers Establishment		1
Public houses	..	31
Greengrocers	..	7
Ice cream premises	..	15
Pie manufacturies	..	2
Malsters	..	1
Flour mills	..	1

Housing Acts eto

Improvement Grants

Applications received	13
Grants made	12 (involving 15 properties)

Small Dwellings Loans

Applications received	21
Loans granted	17

New Council Houses

Under construction at end of 1955

3 bedroomed type	16
2 bedroomed type	14

Completed during 1956

3 bedroomed type	10
2 bedroomed type	6

Under construction at end of 1956

4 bedroomed type	4
3 bedroomed type	6
2 bedroomed type	34

It is gratifying to note the considerable increase of applications for improvement grants over last year, the increase being some 4 times. It is hoped that the increase will continue and show the desire to improve the older properties of the town.

Slum Clearance continues slowly as occupants of old dwellings to be demolished can be rehoused.

Factories in Register

With mechanical power	59
Without mechanical power	15
Fire Escape Certificates issued in 1956	2

Market Stalls

During the year 2,956 stalls were occupied. This figure shows an increase over that last year as can be seen below

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
2175	2649	2906	2934	3083	2987	3304	2828	2663	2956

work

118 plans for works of alteration, new drainage, new buildings etc were deposited during the year. This shows an increase of 47% over the previous year and embracing a great number of visits on drainage work, following the construction of new sewers in the town, and the Councils intention to cease the night soil collection.

13 new private dwellings were constructed during the year.

drainage

Towards the end of last year, temporary starter gear to the new motors and pumps at the main pumping station was installed. Trouble was experienced in that the starter gear permitted the motors to operate at one speed only which happened to be the rate for storm conditions. This meant that during dry weather flow undiluted sewage was passing to the storm tanks at the treatment works, thus complicating the operation of the works in having to handle so much 'storm flow' to the detriment of other tanks being cleaned at sufficient intervals. The temporary starter gear was modified eventually to give lower dry weather pumping rates.

Troubles throughout the year occurred at the treatment works, mainly with the settlement tanks due to unequal distribution of the flow in the inlet channels as designed, and with lack of settlement of fats and solids, causing severe and persistent blocking of the jets of the filter distribution arms.

In December the proper control panels were fitted at the main pumping station and more troubles began immediately. It is hoped that the new year will bring remedies.

Good progress continued in laying new sewers to various sections of the town. The year saw the completion of new sewers to Bedford Street, Russell Street, part New Street, part West Street, Priory Road and unadopted roads in that area. A new sewer was also laid to Moores Cottages in New Street, from High Street.

House connections of the first sewerage scheme and the cutting of river outfalls in Eynesbury were completed.

Storm relief sewers and weirs had to be constructed in Eynesbury at Montagu Street entrance and Washbank Road to alleviate the flooding of the low portion of St Mary's Street during storms.

At the close of the year excessive and unusual smell from the sludge drying beds at the treatment works was being investigated. It is thought that the large amount of blood in the sewage from the abattoirs in the town might have some bearing on this.

Night Soil

The cessation of the Council's night soil collection service in the middle of the year brought a slow start to the conversions of properties to the water carriage system. By the end of the year a large number of plans had been deposited and conversions made.

Refuse

The refuse tip at Howitts Lane benefited greatly from the use of the new tractor with the bulldozer blade and bucket attachment.

The covering was achieved very much more efficaciously, in less time with less manpower. Pulverised fuel ash continues to be used as a basic covering and sealing material.

A serious fire occurred on the tip during the year the cause not discovered. It was, however, extinguished in very short time using a diaphragm pump continuously pumping water day and night from a nearby pond to flood the burning area.

House refuse collection continues satisfactorily.

Salvage

An appeal was received during the year from the Waste Paper Recovery Association requesting authorities to ease up on sending salvage waste paper to the mills due to supply being greater than could be handled by the mills.

Later in the year another request was received asking authorities to accept a 10% reduction in deliveries.

The price paid for salvage waste dropped to a point where it was no longer economical to collect and bale it. The Council continued to make a charge for the collection at the rate of 3/- per visit to premises, to offset some of the loss.

ads, scavenging etc.

There is no doubt that the new mechanical equipment purchased early in the year has been of great advantage.

Snow clearing and gritting was carried out vigourously, but more important over 20 tons of grit laid during icy conditions were picked up in two days with the new rotary broom attachment to the tractor. Previously this operation took almost two weeks and during that time much grit found its way into gulleys and sewers.

The horse 'Prince' during the year was sent to the International League for the Protection of Horses at Cherry Tree Farm, Newchapel, Surrey. 'Queenie' the other horse was retained temporarily for night soil collection work to properties not served by a sewer and those falling in the first two grades of the Slum Clearance Preliminary Report.

The regular maintenance, scavenging, gulley emptying, grass cutting etc of District and Classified roads continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

S.D.COX

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

